

## Cooper, Jamal

---

**From:** Godfrey, Annie  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 14, 2018 1:27 PM  
**To:** Cooper, Jamal; Gordon, Lisa Perras  
**Subject:** SC Water Withdrawal Call 18-2-14

Here are my notes. I'm happy to discuss them after 2:00.

## SC Water Withdrawal Call 18-2-14

Wednesday, February 14, 2018  
12:49 PM

DHEC: Jeff Debessonnet, Mark Hollis  
EPA: Annie

Mark has my email from Feb. 6 that I sent to Jeff and Heather. Myra, Mary and Mark talked in January. Discussed SC surface water planning activities.

Direct correlation between petition and their discussion on water planning. One of the petitioner (Friends of Edisto - FRED) have been involved in discussions on WWR. Had robust dialogue the other week. FRED thinks the WWR should be revisited and amended. Others disagreed. Senate AG and NR Committee requiring a surface water steering committee in March or April. Nucleus of stakeholders - will include FRED - to discuss WWR and other issues. DNR and DHEC will be on committee.

Also will have river basin water planning groups. Using SWAM model to look at impacts from development and future water usage. In next 18 month, will likely have recommendations that may result in changes to WWR.

EPA - how is American Rivers and other involved?

Mark doesn't know who is on the committee. DNR is pulling together the committee. Draft list includes Upstate Forever, maybe Conservation Voters of SC. **Mark will let me know**. Will contact DNR for latest list of NGOs on committee and will ask about American Rivers.

Jeff - challenge to WWR (Jowers case) about the right to challenge rules - what relief or remedies were available. Supreme Court of SC ruled 3 to 2 that statute was fine. Surface water permitting act has ag in registration mode, not permitting mode. Withdrawals could increase without penalty. Request for re-evaluation had different make-up of court for rehearing. In January they heard it again. Court may change initial decision which may force changes or remand for further review. DHEC participation through State AG. Have similar concern with groundwater withdrawals. DHEC may expand GW permitting to different areas of state. Likely another month or two before court decision.

Mark - Jowers has been involved in discussions with stakeholders on committee and regional planning group. He thinks more teeth will be added to SC drought response act. Not sure that WWR will be changed. Drought act gives governor powers to override other state actions like water withdrawal permits.

FRED involved in two stakeholder meetings, also Conservation Voters of SC (John Tinen and Rebecca Haynes). May disband stakeholder group after steering committee is up and running.

Jeff - people debating safe yield led to stakeholder group. Mark said "safe yield" became a hot term. Legally available water has replaced it.

Created with Microsoft OneNote 2016.